United Nations A/HRC/30/NGO/80

General Assembly

Distr.: General
7 September 2015

English only

Human Rights Council
Thirtieth session
Agenda item 5
Human rights bodies and mechanisms

Written statement* submitted by the International Career Support Association, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[31 August 2015]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

GE.15-15058(E)

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Okinawa as an important strategic place and the people of Okinawa Prefecture's awareness

The relocation of U.S. Marine Corps Air Station at Futenma to Camp Schwab at Henoko is being pursued by The Japanese and U.S. governments. However, Governor Takeshi Onaga of Okinawa Prefecture misrepresents the relocation as the construction of a "new base" and thus opposes it.

This relocation is meant to remove the danger of an airfield being located proximity to a city that has grown up around it, and will increase the safety of the residents by moving near the coastline father north in a sparsely populated area.

This plan will achieve consolidation and reduction of U.S. military bases on main Island of Okinawa, both numerically and area-wise, maintaining functioning of security. Many Asian countries value Japan's security legislation based on the belief that Japan is a "Proactive contributor to Peace".

The people of Okinawa Prefecture aware that land returns from the U.S. are steadily being implemented and Okinawa has enjoyed political stability, a high degree of democracy, and all the benefits of freedom as a part of Japan. Also its socio-economic situation has greatly developed due to the special support given by the central government.

As the citizens of Japan, Okinawan people have will to contribute to global peace and stability. Okinawa is a place of strategic importance for East Asia and Western Pacific Ocean under the circumstance there is a country which tries to change the status quo by force or coercion in the East and South China Seas. The people of Okinawan Prefecture understand their role in bringing peace to international society and hope that the United Nations and its other bodies have a true understanding of the situation in Okinawa and the Okinawan people.

Toita Yoshiyuki